

Spooky Full Moon Hike

A full moon so close to Halloween makes a great atmosphere for a nighttime walk. Learn about the cultural significance and folklore surrounding the full moon and Hallow's Eve as we hike under the glow of the moon and stars. Bring a water bottle and a flashlight, some curiosity and imagination, and wear comfortable footwear. Instructor: Zach Ryan
Sa 10/28 • 9:30–11 p.m. • Register by 10/20 • 340010-A
\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For all ages.
Leonard Springs Nature Park—Meet in the parking lot.

Spooky Nature Crafts

It is the time of year when the leaves turn bright colors and the breeze turns brisk and we can use these natural materials to create interesting objects! Create an autumnal or spooky craft to take home. Instructor: Emily Gardner
Su 10/29 • noon–2 p.m. • Register by 10/25 • 340011-A
\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For all ages.
Lower Cascades Park—Meet in Sycamore Shelter.

Night Owl Hike

Accompany a naturalist on an exciting night of owling as you walk through Griffy Lake Nature Preserve beneath the stars. Learn how to spot and listen for common Indiana owl species. Flashlights are optional. Wear comfortable footwear and dress for the weather. Instructor: Jake Wood
Sa 11/4 • 9–10:30 p.m. • Register by 11/1 • 340012-A
\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For all ages.
Griffy Lake Nature Preserve—Meet at boathouse.

Women in Nature Gaining Skills (W.I.N.G.S.)

Women in Nature Gaining Skills (W.I.N.G.S.) encourages and empowers women through teaching skills needed to partake in outdoor recreation activities in south central Indiana. Each W.I.N.G.S. event features woman-led, hands-on training, with the goal of building a community of women interested in the outdoors. W.I.N.G.S. events take place the third Sunday of each month and are open to ages 16 yrs. and up. For more information on how to join, visit SCINWINGS on Facebook.



Roving Naturalist

Roving Naturalists are available for private natural resource programs. To schedule a visit with one of our Roving Naturalists, email rebecca.swift@bloomington.in.gov.

Weed Wrangles– Invasive Plant Awareness Days

January–December 2023 | Location and times vary
Our Weed Wrangles are weekly volunteer opportunities to learn about invasive plant species affecting Bloomington's greenspaces, why we care, how to properly remove and dispose of them and how to put that knowledge into action.
Duties: Help control invasive plant species in our urban greenspaces during weekly events. Enjoy spending time in nature learning from experts in the field while helping create healthier wildlife habitats.
Volunteer shift(s): times vary
Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs. and up
Number of Volunteers: Varies



To register, visit bloomington.in.gov/parksvol



Nature and the Outdoors Fall–Winter 2023

Price is per person. Children under age 12 yrs. must be accompanied by a registered adult. Activities may be both inside and outside, so please dress for the weather.

For more information, contact Rebecca Swift at rebecca.swift@bloomington.in.gov or 812-349-3759 or. Register online at bloomington.in.gov/parks.



btownparks



BloomingtonParks



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City of Bloomington, IN - Parks and Recreation



Volunteer Opportunity

Griffy Lake Nature Preserve

Boathouse, 3400 N. Headley Rd.

Scenic woodlands teeming with wild flora and fauna surround the 109-acre Griffy Lake at this 1,220-acre nature preserve. Swimming is prohibited. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has stocked the lake with bluegill, redear sunfish, largemouth bass, channel catfish, and crappie. Kayak, canoe, and stand up paddleboard rentals are available seasonally at Griffy Lake boathouse.
To protect wildlife and visitors, all dogs must remain leashed while in the preserve. Nearby Ferguson Dog Park (4300 N. Stone Mill Rd.) accommodates dogs off-leash. For more information, call 349-3700.

Griffy Lake Watercraft Rental Fees

Canoe/Kayak/SUP Rental
(Two-hour limit on holidays/weekends)\$9/hour
10-Rental Pass \$80
Available for purchase at the boathouse during regular business hours.

Groups (10+) wishing to make watercraft rental reservations Monday through Friday may do so by emailing Rebecca Swift at rebecca.swift@bloomington.in.gov. **Rented watercraft returned to the boathouse after closing are subject to a minimum \$20 late fee. A minimum \$50 replacement fee is charged for lost, stolen, or damaged rental items.**

Privately owned boat launch fees: \$90/season, \$9/day
Boat motors are limited to electric trolling motors only.
Boathouse hours:
April and October: Saturday and Sunday only, 9 a.m.–6 p.m.
May–August: Daily, 8 a.m.–8 p.m.
September: Daily, 9 a.m.–6 p.m.
November–March: Closed
Boathouse phone: 349-3732
Boathouse email:
griffy.boathouse@bloomington.in.gov

Griffy Lake Trails: Trail guides are available at the Bloomington Parks and Recreation office and the Griffy Lake boathouse. Please respect this fragile environment by remaining on the marked trails. Mountain biking, horseback riding, and off-road vehicles are strictly prohibited.
AMENITIES: Seasonal restrooms and picnic tables next to boathouse
PARKING: Available by the boathouse
TRAILS: 10+ miles total, natural surface
Wetlands Trail .2 miles, **Nature Trail** .5 miles (loop), **Griffy Creek Trail** 1.5 miles, **Hiking Trail** 1.7 miles (loop) **Lanam Trail** .6 miles, **West North Shore Loop** 1 mile, **East North Shore Loop** .5 miles
ACCESSIBILITY: Accessible .3 mile pathway along Griffy Lake includes five fishing access points and connects users to the north and south shore hiking trails. Accessible canoe and kayak launch fishing pier, and pathway along Griffy Lake.

Eco Outpost: Looking for a fun way to interact with the great outdoors? Visit the Eco Outpost to check out our display of natural objects like fossils, pine cones, seashells, and more. Borrow an Explorer Backpack and take a fun-filled trek through the woods or your own backyard. The Eco Outpost is open during boathouse hours.

bloomington.in.gov/griffylake

Night Paddle

Experience an evening of peace and serenity on Griffy Lake during the full moon. Watercraft, paddles and life jackets are provided. Children age 14 yrs. and younger must be accompanied by a registered adult. Bring a flashlight to help you navigate back to your vehicle once you return to dry land.

W 8/30 • 8:30–10 p.m. • Register by 8/25 • 240002-E
F 9/29 • 7:30–9 p.m. • Register by 9/12 • 240002-F
Sa 10/28 • 7:30–9 p.m. • Register by 10/17 • 240002-G
\$12/in-city, \$15/non-city • For all ages.
Griffy Lake Nature Preserve—Meet at boathouse.

Sunset Paddle

Enjoy the view of Bloomington's sunset from Griffy Lake. Watercraft, paddles and life jackets are provided. Children age 14 yrs. and younger must be accompanied by a registered adult. Bring a flashlight to help you navigate back to your vehicle once you return to dry land.

Th 8/17 • 8–9:30 p.m. • Register by 8/15 • 240001-E
Th 9/14 • 7:30–9 p.m. • Register by 9/12 • 240001-F
Th 10/19 • 6:30–8 p.m. • Register by 10/17 • 240001-G
\$12/in-city, \$15/non-city • For all ages.
Griffy Lake Nature Preserve—Meet at boathouse.

Insect Investigation

Gain the knowledge to identify insects you may find on future hikes, in your garden, or even in your house! Who can sting? Who can bite? Who can make cool noises? Find out during this insect investigation! Be prepared for a short hike around Rogers Family Park.

Instructor: Brandon Olson

Sa 9/2 • 3–4 p.m. • Register by 8/31 • 340001-A
\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For all ages.
Rogers Family Park—Meet at the red barn

Fall Frog Songs

Did you know there are frogs that chirp? Others can whistle, croak, ribbit, peep, cluck, bark and grunt. Learn about local frogs, and how their calls are as unique as the frogs themselves! Be prepared for a short guided hike on the Griffy Wetland Trail.

Instructor: Brandon Olson

Su 9/10 • 6:30–8 p.m. • Register by 9/7 • 340002-A
\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For all ages.
Griffy Lake Nature Preserve—Meet at boathouse.

Fall Bio-Blitz

Compete to find as many plant and animal species as possible at Griffy Lake Nature Preserve! The person or group with the most submissions wins a prize at the end of the weeklong challenge. Submissions must be taken within the park boundaries to be counted.

Access to a mobile device and the iNaturalist app is required.

Instructor: Brandon Olson

F–Su 9/15–9/24 • Register by 9/13 • 340003-A
FREE • For all ages.

Griffy Lake Nature Preserve

Bug Fest



Learn all about amazing insects at the annual Bug Fest! Exhibitors share and display their knowledge on a variety of buggy topics. This event is a collaboration of Bloomington Parks and Recreation, Monroe County Parks and Recreation, The WonderLab Museum, and Purdue Extension-Monroe County. To pre-register, visit bloomington.in.gov/parks/events/bug-fest.

Sa 9/23 • 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
FREE • For all ages.

Karst Farm Park, 2450 S Endwright Rd



World Rivers Day Cleanup



Celebrate World Rivers Day by helping clear debris and invasive species along Clear Creek in Switchyard Park. We'll provide trash bags and gloves; you bring the enthusiasm and love for streams.

Together we will help keep our waterways free of litter and non-native plants! Wear long-pants, closed-toe shoes, and expect to get wet. Instructor: Brandon Olson

Su 9/24 • 1–3 p.m. • Register by 9/22 • 340004-A
FREE • For all ages.

Switchyard Park—Meet at picnic shelter.

Harvest Moon Night Hike

Discover the magic that comes alive in the woods at night and under the moonlight! Join a guided night hike where we will rely on the light of the moon to guide us along the trails at Leonard Springs Nature Park. Wear comfortable footwear and dress for the weather. Flashlights are optional.

Instructor: Emily Gardner

F 9/29 • 8:30–10 p.m. • Register by 9/26 • 340005-A
\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For all ages.

Leonard Springs Nature Park—Meet in parking lot.

Where the Furry Things Are

Search for animals like real trackers! We will scour the trails of Leonard Springs Nature Park in search of signs that our furry neighbors are nearby. Learn how to cast tracks, how to identify tracks, and other useful tracking skills. Wear comfortable footwear and bring a water bottle. Instructor: Zach Ryan

Sa 9/30 • 3:30–5:30 p.m. • Register by 9/22 • 340006-A
\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For all ages.

Leonard Springs Nature Park—Meet in parking lot.

Knots and Lashings in the Outdoors: A Workshop

Knot novices are invited to this hands-on workshop to learn common knots and lashings used in outdoor pursuits. Learn up to six different types of knots and lashings, each with its own unique purpose. No prior experience or rope is required!

Bring a water bottle. Instructor: Zach Ryan

Su 10/8 • noon–2 p.m. • Register by 10/5 • 340007-A
\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For all ages.

RCA Community Park—Meet at picnic shelter.

Camping Basics with IU Outdoor Adventures



Indiana University Outdoor Adventures presents an informative program for less experienced campers on how to enjoy a weekend in the woods. IUOA will review car camping practices, backcountry camping practices, principles of low-impact camping, equipment to bring versus leave behind, and more. Register by October 5 by visiting outdoors.iu.edu and clicking on "More Events."

Su 10/8 • noon–2 p.m. • Register by 10/5
FREE • For all ages.

Dunn Meadow, E. Seventh St. and N. Indiana Ave.

Fall Native Tree Planting



Help plant native trees to reforest the old field at the Ferguson Dog Park! The park is a spring haven for migrating birds, and a home for pollinators, small animals, invertebrates, and native plants and trees. Have fun while making a difference! Dress for outdoor work. Register online at bloomington.in.gov/parksvol.

Sa 10/14 • 10 a.m.–1 p.m. • Register by 10/12
FREE • For all ages.

Ferguson Dog Park, 4300 N. Stone Mill Rd

Fall Foraging

Autumn is harvest time in Indiana, and that stands true in the natural world as well. Join us for a leisurely walk and discover the edible bounty of the forest. Learn sustainable foraging tips and identification tricks, and sample tea made from a common wild edible plant! Wear comfortable footwear and bring a water bottle.

Instructor: Emily Gardner

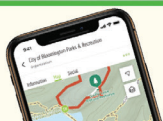
Su 10/15 • noon–2 p.m. • Register by 10/11 • 340008-A
\$8/in-city, \$9/non-city • For ages 10 yrs and up w/parent
RCA Community Park—Meet at small shelter.

Pumpkin Carving & Three Sisters

Go big or gourd home! Carve a pumpkin as you learn about the Three Sisters companion planting technique used by various Indigenous peoples of North America. We'll discuss why squash, maize ("corn"), and climbing beans grow so well together and how to apply this technique to your own gardens.

Carving supplies are provided. Instructor: Jake Wood
Sa 10/21 • 5:30–7 p.m. • Register by 10/13 • 340009-A
\$8/in-city, \$9/non-city • For all ages.

Winslow Woods Park—Meet at shelter.



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